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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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NEWS



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Authors on Architecture: Moruzzi on Havana

SAH/SCC Event
Saturday, January 24th

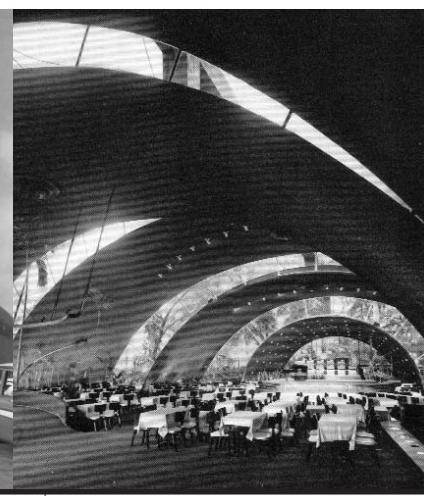
SAH/SCC's Authors on Architecture series is pleased to present architectural historian and SAH/SCC member Peter Moruzzi, who will give a compelling slide talk based on his recent book Havana Before Castro: When Cuba Was a Tropical Playground (Gibbs Smith, 2008). The lecture and photographic presentation will take place on Saturday, January 24th, 2-3:30PM, in the Martin Luther King Room at the Santa Monica Public Library, Main Branch (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2005), at 601 Santa Monica Boulevard. Reservations for the free event are not required.

In the middle decades of the last century—when Havana was one of the most fabulous and exciting cities on earth—talented local architects adapted Modernist tenets to Cuba's topography and climate. Moruzzi explores the astonishing result, dubbed Havana Modern, in his book, which will be available for purchase and signing (see review in *SAH/SCC News*, September/October 2008). An architectural historian by profession, Moruzzi is a long-time preservationist who specializes in Mid-Century Modern architecture and design, and has been fixated with the history of Cuba since 1987.

Moruzzi moved to Southern California from San Francisco in 1990 and soon led the successful effort to designate the Bob's Big Boy restaurant in Burbank as a state landmark and coordinated the multi-year campaign to save the Downey McDonald's. He was Chair of the Los Angeles Conservancy's Modern Committee from 1992 to 1997, and was a Conservancy board member for six years. In 1999, he founded the Palm Springs Modern Committee (PS ModCom), a historic preservation organization that produces home tours, annual preservation awards, and a best-selling tour map of Modern sites, while advocating for the preservation of Modern properties.

In 2002, Moruzzi received the presidential citation for public service from the American Institute of Architects California Council for his efforts toward preserving Modernist architecture in California. Four years later, in 2006, he wrote and produced "Desert Holiday," a humorous and informative documentary chronicling the history of Palm Springs as seen through vintage postcards.

The event is free to all. So bring a friend or two and perhaps they'll be encouraged to become SAH/SCC members after their virtual trip to Havana! Parking is available under the library for \$3 per hour; enter on 7th St., north of Santa Monica Blvd; visit www.smpl.org or call 310.458.8600 to reach the library directly.



2009

january february

SAH/SCC

President's Letter

Looking back on 2008, it was a year in which SAH/SCC showcased the diversity of its mission. From Spanish Colonial to Victorian, Craftsman to Contemporary, International Style to Modern Ranch, the SAH/SCC Executive Board repeatedly demonstrated how rich the architectural palette is in Southern California. For those of us who love architecture, this region is truly a remarkable place.

Last year also saw the launch of a new SAH/SCC series, "Contemporary Patrons." From Laguna Beach to Santa Ynez, we traveled to meet the owners and architects responsible for some of the most exciting contemporary architecture around. These programs offer us a venue in which to learn about the challenges and opportunities associated with creating and occupying an architectural residence. The first two programs were extremely stimulating to the eye and the ear. And we look forward to bringing you more of these intimate salons.

SAH/SCC contributes to architectural history in many ways, but one of the ways I'm most proud of is when the organization honors the unsung heroes of architecture. This year's Paul Tay home tour in Long Beach was an excellent example. The writers of history often forget the contributors who don't seek publication, write manifestos, or aggressively promote themselves. "Getting to Know Architect Paul Tay" offered our members and the community the opportunity to experience the work of this architect and acknowledge his legacy in Long Beach.

The year 2009 is sure to bring more architectural adventures our way, including the continuation of our popular "Modern Patrons" program. The Executive Board is working hard to identify original owners of significant residences so we can continue our dialogues about commissioning and living in a modern masterpieces. See Page 3 for a new Modern Patrons program on Richard Neutra.

With the changing of the calendar, we are also saying goodbye to an old friend and welcoming a new one to the Executive Board. After many years of service, Craig Walker will be leaving the Board to pursue other interests. Over the years, Craig created many memorable tours on the work of his father, Case Study House architect Rodney Walker. Craig has been a cheerful and supportive member of our team at all events. Thank you, Craig, and keep in touch!

I hope you will all join us in welcoming Jay Platt to the Board. Jay is a Planner for Historic Preservation and Urban Design with the City of Glendale. Jay's background includes working in preservation in the private and nonprofit sectors. After spending several years in New York City, he came back to Southern California in 2004 and has worked with the Los Angeles Conservancy. Jay will be a fine addition to our Board. Be sure to welcome him at our next event.

Lastly, this month marks the official launch of SAH/SCC E-News (see related article on Page 3) and the transition from a mailed newsletter to one delivered via email. We are very excited about this advance. Fear not, members can still print and hold a copy of the complete newsletter (including the event articles, calendar, and book reviews) by clicking on the link "PRINTABLE PDF of Calendar and Newsletter" on the left column of the email. In addition to saving money (and a tree), the new SAH/SCC E-News technology will offer many more opportunities to learn and share—not to mention the advent of color pictures!

Thank you all for your continued support of our organization. On behalf of the SAH/SCC Executive Board, I wish you all a healthy and happy new year. We look forward to sharing new architectural experiences with you in 2009!

Sian Winship

Amble to the Gamble Docent Training Begins

It takes 170 docents and a small dedicated staff to keep The Gamble House doors open. Each year, beginning in February, The Gamble House conducts a training class to prepare prospective docents to become tour guides. Those interested in The Gamble House, the Arts and Crafts Movement, architecture, decorative arts, and sharing knowledge and history with others are invited to participate. Docents receive specialized training from craftsmen, artists, Greene family members, architects, experts, and other docents. The class begins in February, and by May newly trained docents conduct tours for the public. In September the class resumes with more in-depth learning, and ends in November with a graduation dinner and celebration. For additional information, or to express interest in becoming a Gamble House docent, call 626.793.3334 and follow the prompts to Docent Council information, or go to www.gamblehouse.org for more info.



Tour and Event Information: **1.800.972.4722;**

info@sahsc.org

SAH/SCC NEWS is published bi-monthly by the Society of Architectural Historians / Southern California Chapter. Subscription is a benefit of membership and provides members with one of the most comprehensive calendars of architectural events in Southern California and advance notice of exclusive SAH/SCC architectural events and tours.

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March/April 2009 issue deadline for newsletter information and ads: February 10, 2009

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Modern Patrons: Neutra in Shoshone

SAH/SCC Tour and Talk
Saturday, March 21st



Photos: Julius Shulman
Courtesy of the Research Library, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.

SAH/SCC's Modern Patrons program resumes on Saturday, March 21st, with a very special trip to Shoshone to visit the Richard Neutra-designed Sorrells residence, 1956-57. Situated about 2-1/2 hours northeast of Los Angeles, just outside of Baker on the way to Las Vegas, this very special event will take place from 11AM to 1PM and is limited to Patron and Life members only. Upgrade your membership now to assure your spot; see reservation form on Back Page.

As distinguished author and former SAH/SCC Executive Board Member Barbara Lamprecht writes in her book *Neutra: The Complete Works*: "...Neutra appeared to be fascinated by the 'primeval solitude' of the house in the 'colossally spacious Inyo County, a region of fantastic contrast, where many a wanderer lost his life far from human help'". The Sorrells owned and operated a general merchandise store, gas station, and café in Shoshone, a town that serves as one of the primary entrances to the famous Death Valley. In this barren—sometimes surreal—scene, the walls of the house run out freely into the landscape. Planes and lines are stretched, partly in response to the fierce dusty winds, and create a strong composition whose verticals and horizontals are effectively interwoven. Like some other Neutra houses, this was to be a "three-generation house", according to Lamprecht.

We will have the opportunity to spend the late morning enjoying the house and learning firsthand from the daughter of Maury and Bernice Sorrells, about her experiences growing up in the house and environs and about her remembrances of Neutra and his wife Dione, who came to visit the family often.

Join us for another fascinating experience in a compelling environment for architectural exploration. Tickets are \$10 each for Patron and Life members and reservations are required. Please note that space is limited but will be opened up to the general membership, should the opportunity arise, on a first-come first-served basis.

SAH/SCC E-News Officially Launches!

SAH/SCC is delighted to announce that this January you will receive the first official issue of the electronic version of *SAH/SCC News* in your email inbox, in addition to the printed version in your regular mailbox!

The bi-monthly *SAH/SCC E-News* features all the information you'd find in your printed newsletter, and more. Details of upcoming SAH/SCC events will be featured each month, complete with links to purchasing event tickets online or printing out a handy mailing order form.

Because many of you have expressed a desire for a printed newsletter, the *SAH/SCC E-News* will also feature a link to a printable, 8½" x 11" version of the same newsletter you've been receiving in the mail. You'll find the monthly events calendar, book reviews, and other features you've come to love. Just click on "PRINTABLE PDF of Calendar and Newsletter" in the left column of *SAH/SCC E-News* email. A PDF file of the same newsletter you've been receiving by mail will pop up and you can print it right on your desktop printer. Lose or misplace it? Just print it again.

With *SAH/SCC E-News* comes exciting new opportunities—such as links to additional educational materials, members' event photos, videos, and other content. For example, one SAH/SCC member snapped a series of remarkable photographs at the Members' Celebration that we can now share with everybody. If you have content you would like to share, email us at info@sahsc.org.

One year ago, SAH/SCC initiated the "Crossroads Campaign" to expand our educational mission and to leverage technology to better serve the membership. *SAH/SCC E-News* is one of several exciting new developments that will enrich the membership experience and enhance learning. The launch of a new and improved SAH/SCC website will be another milestone to watch for in 2009.

SAH/SCC owes a special thank-you to our members who have been previewing the new *SAH/SCC E-News* and providing feedback. Our Advisory Board has also been critical in helping us test early versions of *SAH/SCC E-News*. The organization also extends its thanks to our newsletter editor Julie D. Taylor of Taylor & Company and our newsletter designer Svetlana Petrovic. We now welcome the addition of our new e-newsletter designer, Angie Agostino, to the SAH/SCC family.

Because we will no longer be printing and mailing the newsletter via USPS, the SAH/SCC regretfully says goodbye to the excellent services of DSJ Printing in Santa Monica and Licher Direct Mail in Pasadena and acknowledges them for their years of service. The January/February 2009 issue will be the last issue of the printed and mailed format.

We want your feedback. Email us at info@sahsc.org or call at 1.800.9SAHSCC (1.800.972.4722). If you haven't been in touch with us to provide us with your email address or make other arrangements, please contact us with your information.

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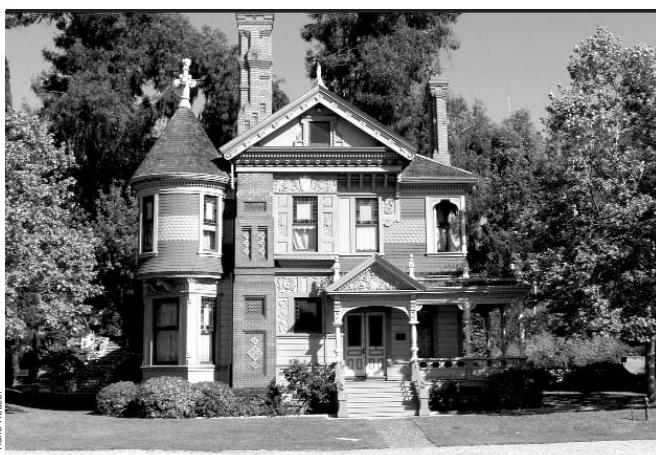
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Free SAH/SCC Members' Celebration
Heritage Square
Saturday, November 8th, 2:30-4:30PM

Join SAH/SCC for our annual Free Members' Celebration on Saturday, November 8th, 2:30-4:30PM as we explore HERITAGE SQUARE near Lincoln Park. This collection of eight structures dates from the 1870s to the turn of the 20th century. Representing the Victorian era, the buildings are open to the public to learn about the challenges and opportunities for clients, architects, builders, and, lastly, preservationists. [Read more.](#)

Attendees will also tour the buildings and share food and drink with other members. This annual event is free for members, but reservations are required. Guests are \$20. [Email](#) us your reservation now...or call and leave a message for us at 1.800.9SAHSCC.

Modern Patrons: Neutra in Shoshone
Saturday, March 21st, 2009



Halpin House.

Postcard From Heritage Square

Annual Members' Celebration 2008

On November 8, 2008, SAH/SCC members gathered at Heritage Square for hors d'oeuvres, libations, conversation, and confections on the lawn of the 1877 Perry Mansion. Before a brief talk by Michael Ontiveros on the histories of the eight Victorian structures on the Square, more than half the crowd raised their hands when asked who had never before visited Heritage Square. The event was a great opportunity to become acquainted with this resource. Thanks to Brian Sheridan of Heritage Square for inviting us, and to member Richard Stanley for bringing his beautiful blue LaSalle roadster to add pizzazz to the scene! Late afternoon shadows and beautiful weather delighted camera-bearing members during the concluding tour. Be sure to join us for next year's Members' Celebration at another interesting historical architectural site.

Merry Ovnick

2009

january february



SAH SCC order form

Fill out form below and send to:

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Modern Patrons—March 21st

Patron/Life member ticket(s) at \$10 each = \$ _____

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Questions: Call 800.9SAHSCC.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT ITEMS FOR SALE

A contract (and supporting documents) dated November 2, 1957, between FLW, Henry J. Kaiser, Michael Todd, and Pat Weaver to build theaters. Aluminum shells with Wright designing the interiors. Nine pages total plus collected research materials.

About one hundred books, pamphlets, and a record by and about Wright.
A rug fragment measuring 36"x 68" in black, blue, orange, and yellow. Two finished edges; two rough, otherwise excellent condition.

For lists and images email pjscott@erols.com.



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Paul Tay, Architect: 4"x 8" color brochure featuring five modern ranch-style homes in Long Beach
 at \$3 each

Architecture: Inside and Outside: 5"x5" folded color brochure featuring Santa Barbara's Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, and Val Verde
 at \$3 each

Out of the Shadow: 24-page, two-color brochure from Phoenix travel tour featuring the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Al Beadle, Blaine Drake, Paolo Soleri, Edward B. Sawyer, Bennie Gonzales, and Will Bruder
 at \$12 each

A Block in Glendale: pocket-size fandeck of cards featuring five diverse properties—including a Paul Williams residence—plus historical background information on the Brockmont Heights subdivision
 at \$3 each

Rodney Walker 3 30 90: 12-page brochure exploring the architect's usage of the three-foot module and features nine homes on five sites
 at \$8 each

Edward Killingsworth: Setting a Modern Standard: 20-page, black-and-white brochure featuring seven Long Beach houses and an article by the architect
 at \$8 each

Space and Learning: eight-page, four-color brochure on the historical and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and others
 at \$8 each

Rodney Walker: The Ojai Years: tri-fold, black-and-white brochure featuring Walker's important residences in Ojai, with pictures and article by historian David Mason
 at \$5 each

Kesling Homes: bi-fold, two-color brochure from the "Kesling Modern Structures" tour
 at \$2 each

The Historic and Modern Spirit of Ventura: 20-page guide from Ventura tour
 at \$10 each

Modernism for the Masses: tri-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the Orange County tour
 at \$10 each

Reconsidering Lloyd Wright: 21-page, four-color booklet from "Reconsidering Lloyd Wright" house tour
 at \$10 each

Union Station and MTA Transit Center: bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos
 at \$2 each

David Gebhard Review: essays on the Works Project Administration by Robert W. Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi March Mogul
 at \$5 each

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questions can be asked